

# TAR HEEL TALK

# Winter 2019

# Issue No. 157

**N.C. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**

BOOKS  
on  
DEMAND  
DEMAND  
ON  
BOOKS

## FEATURES

- **Staff Features**
- **Books on Demand**
- **BARD Madness**



## STAFF FEATURES: JOSH BERKOV

### What are your duties at NCLBPH?

I am the Collection Management Librarian. I spend my time classifying incoming volumes; selecting and ordering large-print titles, DVDs, and Braille materials; administering the Library's Interlibrary Loan program and playing servant to his two beautiful cats Tyson and Felix. Oh wait, scratch that!

### How long have you been with NCLBPH?

It'll be five years in June 2019. Five long and torturous years. Um, you're not going to print this, are you?

### What made you decide to apply at NCLBPH?

I have a friend who worked here years ago, Lyman Clayborn, who knew that I was looking for a new job. He strongly recommended that I apply, so I did. I trusted my friend's judgment that I would



really enjoy working here, and he was right. It's been a wonderful experience, even if it does take me away from my cats every day for 9 hours.

### What does your position mean to you?

I have been a professional librarian since October 2007, and this is probably the most rewarding position I have had in terms of knowing that the work that I do literally helps thousands of North Carolinians every single day. If it weren't for the subject-coding work that I do, a reader who prefers cozy mysteries might accidentally be sent a vampire-filled occult mystery, or a reader who prefers Amish romances might end up with a spicy romance instead. We certainly can't have any of that going on!

### What does a service like the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped mean to you?

As someone who has some visual impairment, it warms my heart to know that this service is available to those who cannot read regular-size print. There may come a day where I will no longer be able to read print myself, and knowing that NLS exists gives me comfort regarding my future.

**Do you have a certain project you have worked on which you were very pleased with the results?**

I am particularly pleased with the results of our Rating unrated Books project. We are participating in a national endeavor to read and rate the commercially-produced audio books that NLS has acquired. So far, our volunteers here in NC have contributed over 150 book ratings to the project, one of the top-five largest contributions of any of the network libraries who are participating.

**Do you have a message for our patrons?**

“Live! Live! Live! Life’s a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death!” – Auntie Mame. ■

**“Tar Heel Talk” is a quarterly publication of the N.C. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NCLBPH), State Library of North Carolina, and N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.**

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## BOOKS ON DEMAND SERVICE

For sixty years, the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has provided accessible books to its patrons. The book format our library has provided has changed throughout the years. Initially, we delivered our patrons records; then, decades later, we moved to cassettes followed by digital talking books on cartridges we use today. Now, patrons are capable of downloading those talking books, as well as digital braille books, from BARD and NOBLE.

Patrons of a Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped should be fairly familiar with the numerous digital cartridges they receive in the mail. Patrons can receive multiple books in a single delivery, and, as everyone knows, it can be difficult to keep track of multiple cartridges. With a new service we are currently testing called Books on Demand (BoD), we hope to make the delivery of these talking books easier for patrons.

Imagine having multiple talking books, but only on one cartridge. When you're done with one book, you can go to your Bookshelf on your Digital Talking Book Player and go to whichever book you want to read next. Patrons who use BARD, BARD Mobile, or BARD Express may see similarities between BoD and the BARD services.



With BoD, a patron would have one cartridge containing multiple talking books delivered to them at a time. When our patron is done with that cartridge, they may return it to the library through the mail and a second cartridge should either already be delivered or on its way if the patron requested it or had more books in their queue. This would eliminate the wait time while changing cartridges. Once the patron is done with the second cartridge, they can send it back, while the original cartridge is on its way back to the patron. It's like a juggling act. When a patron's cartridge is delivered back to the library, our staff will load the books from a patron's queue or books a patron may have requested from a Reader Advisor. Once loaded on the cartridge, it is shipped back to the patron.

We are currently in the pilot phase of this process to smooth any bumps in the road we encounter. Moving forward, we will gradually move more and more of our patrons to the BoD service. ■

## TIPS FOR BETTER SERVICE

- Please be sure to return cartridges in the container that matches the book or magazine.
- If you receive large print or audio magazines, please return them to the library when you are finished reading them.
- If there is a problem with a cartridge or the cartridge is missing, put a note in the case or a rubber band around the damaged cartridge. Please do not write on the cartridge, case, or any labels on these items.
- If you often replace your smartphone, there is a maximum number of devices you can have registered with BARD. Please notify us when you get a new phone so we can delete the old one from your account.



# *Friends of the* North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

**Dear Friends,**

As many of you have probably received either an email or a letter to renew your membership with the Friends of the Library recently, we hope you have renewed online or by sending in your renewal by mail. Your membership helps us to support and enhance the services of the NC Library for the Blind. So, your support is greatly appreciated and valued.

As you might recall, we started the James Benton Braille Writer program last year. This program provides braille writers to individuals who are unable to purchase this expensive piece of equipment and do not have any other resources available to them to acquire this equipment. Since that time, we have provided ten braille writers to well-deserving individuals who had no other means of obtain-

ing a braille writer to assist them with their daily lives. We are very pleased to have provided this



equipment to these individuals and know this has made a difference to them. If you would like more information about the Braille Writer Program or would like an application, go to our website at [www.friendsncldbph.org](http://www.friendsncldbph.org) and click the link to the James Benton Braille Writer program. Also, if you have or know of anyone who has a braille writer not being used, you can donate that unused equipment to us, and we will refurbish it. Then we will find it a new home where it will benefit someone else.

This is just one example of how your memberships and donations are used to help the Friends carry out our mission and goals. You can also invite others to become a Friends member by sharing this newsletter and asking them to join online and paying through PayPal or by sending in their membership to us at: Friends of the Library for the Blind, 1841 Capital Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27635.

Did you know that you can support Friends of the Library when you shop at Amazon? All you need to do is register at Smile.Amazon.com and designate Friends of the NC Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped as your nonprofit organization and 0.5 percent of your purchase will benefit the Friends. After registering the Friends as your nonprofit organization, every time you shop at Amazon using the Smile.Amazon.com web address, the Friends organization will receive 0.5 percent of your approved order. Everything on the Amazon website is the same using this address as it would be if you used just the Amazon website. So, please register and tell your Friends to register as well to help show your support for this outstanding organization. We would appreciate it very much!

Until next time, take care and we thank you very much for your continued support.

-Eddie Weaver, President ■

## **Membership Online Application**

To learn more about becoming a member of the Friends of NCLBPH click the link below:

<https://www.friendsnclbph.org/membership.php>

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# THE ART OF PRODUCTION

As you may know, NCLPBH has many volunteer roles. One of those roles is how we locally produce books and magazines for our NOBLE service.

The process of production is a five-person job. It begins with there being a need to record a book or magazine, which is determined by our Collections Librarian. Once the project is selected, our Volunteer Coordinator assigns one of the studio teams to begin the recording process. A studio team consists of a volunteer narrator and monitor. The studios are equipped with microphones for the narrator and monitor, a computer equipped with Hindenburg, the software we use to record narrations, and a sound booth for the narrator so the only thing heard in the playback is what the narrator reads. They begin the process with an overview of the magazine or book, so they know what major obstacles to expect, such as article structure, page turns, events, strange words,

charts, etc. Once the overview is finished, they begin the recording process. Depending on what they are recording, it could take anywhere from a couple of weeks up to a year.

Once the team has finished their initial recording, one of our reviewers will listen to what was recorded; this process can take a while too since our reviewers volunteer for two hours once a week.





Once the material has been reviewed, the recording team begins making corrections during their next volunteer session. The corrections process can usually be done within a two-hour session.

Once the corrections have been completed, the project goes to the Volunteer Coordinator to be encrypted and produced into a talking book which can be easily navigated and only work on a National Library Service approved player. From there, our Digital Services Librarian, puts it on our NOBLE page for our patrons to download, or to be delivered on cartridges to our subscribers. ■



## NOBLE: LISTEN UP NC!

One of the many services we offer our patrons is access to our version of BARD we call NOBLE (North Carolina BARD Local). NOBLE features digital braille books and digital talking books and magazines which are published in North Carolina and produced by our library. While there is no patron application necessary to use NOBLE, all media downloaded from NOBLE can only be played on a digital book player approved by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

You may visit NOBLE to see if there is anything you would like to download by going to: [statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph/read/download/noble](http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph/read/download/noble)

## BOOK BLURBS

**“Razor Girl: A Novel” by Carl Hiaasen** Talking Book: DB085766,  
Large Print: LT036909

Hiaasen at his best in the absurd world of southern Florida. Featuring not very bright criminals, befuddled tourists and Gambian Pouched Rats.

**“Ally: My Journey Across the American-Israeli Divide” by Michael Oren** Talking Book: DB083584

The autobiography of a former Israeli Ambassador to the United States. A readable take on the complexities of American-Israeli diplomatic relations.

**“Navajo Autumn” by R. Allen Chappell** Talking Book: DB089627

The perfect book for fans of Tony Hillerman’s “Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn” and Craig Johnson’s “Walt Longmire” series. Featuring Tribal Investigator Charlie Yazzie.



**“Thank You for Smoking” by Christopher Buckley** Talking Book: DB038779

A satirical take on politicians, lobbyists, businessmen and journalists. As funny now as when it was written in 1994.

**“Chiefs” by Stuart Woods** Talking Book: DB017674 Large Print: LT023225

Best-selling author Stuart Woods’ first novel is a page turner. Set in the mythical town of Delano, Georgia; it revolves around forty plus years of serial murders and the three very different police chiefs who investigate the murders.

**“A Fine Mess: A Global Quest for a Simpler, Fairer, and More Efficient Tax System” by T. R. Reid**

Talking Book: DB087740

Journalist Reid examines different methods of taxation from around the world, as well as the history of the U.S. tax system. Borrowing from other na-

tions, he proposes ways to improve and simplify our tax system. Informative and entertaining. ■





# BARD MaDness

We are in the middle of the College Basketball season, and with March Madness soon approaching it is time for the second year of NCLBPH's BARD Madness.

Last year, we selected books from BARD's monthly Top 10 list, divided them by the seasons the lists were published, narrowed each list from 30 to 17 and made four brackets for 17 different titles, the extra ones were in the First Four.

BARD Madness was inspired by March Madness and Book Madness. Excluding the First Four, the rounds follow the same format as the March Madness rounds: Round of 64, Round of 32, Sweet Sixteen, Elite Eight, Final Four and finally the Championship.

During each round, participants will either vote for their favor-

ite book or base their decision from the descriptions of the books. The book with the most votes wins its match and advances to the next round.

Last year, we didn't have a prize for participants (except for bragging rights if your favorite book won). This year, we are giving prizes to our participants; the prize this year will be lunch coolers! Keep a look out for our Facebook and Twitter profiles to see when voting takes place.



When participants vote for the books, they will be prompted to enter their e-mail address and phone number so we may contact them if they win that round! Once a participant votes, they will be entered into a drawing to win a prize. Multiple entries will only be counted once. There will be six rounds, and six chances to win! All winners will be contacted directly.

Due to the nature of some of the books in the contest, we ask only participants eighteen years or older to participate.

Be sure to follow us on our Facebook and Twitter page to see when these things are posted. ■

Facebook: [facebook.com/nctalkingbooks](https://facebook.com/nctalkingbooks)

Twitter: [twitter.com/nclbph](https://twitter.com/nclbph)



# BARD MaDness

# BOOK REVIEW: WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING, BY DELIA OWENS

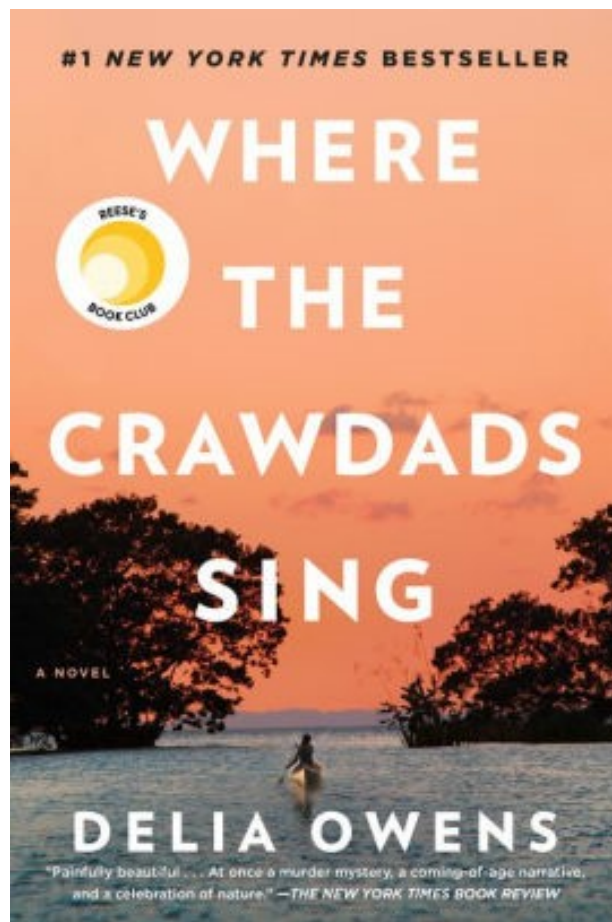
Heather Brown

I decided to read this book because of a recommendation from a friend. I did not realize that it was chosen as a Reese Witherspoon Hello Sunshine X book club book pick until patrons started calling to request it.

The book takes place in the fictional town of Barkley Cove on the rural coast of North Carolina. The story shifts between the present and past, both a soul-wrenching coming of age story and a present-day murder mystery of a popular townie boy.

The story begins with the death of Chase Andrews, the all-American high school football star all grown up. The small-town sheriff starts investigating and believes that instead of an accident, he may have been pushed off the tower to fall to his death.

The story then shifts back to the past, with the protagonist



being a six-year-old by the name of Katherine Clark, affectionately known as Kya. She and her family live in a rough-hewn shack and her daddy drinks a lot and barely makes enough money to get by. She is the target of her father's wrath, along with all her brothers, sisters and mother. That is, until one day when her mother leaves, never to return. That starts a chain-reaction of each of her other siblings trickling away, one by one.

Kya is the youngest of the Clark brood and even though she is small, she is scrappy. Her spirit and determination shine even on her worst of days. She learns through trial and error to make it through each day. She grows up way faster than any small child should ever have to, and eventually even her father stops his infrequent returns home.

Kya gains the reputation of “The Marsh Girl” as she is seen coasting through the brackish waters, surviving by collecting mussels and fish to sell and trading them for goods at the local gas and supply dock. She befriends the owner “Jumpin’” and his wife Mabel. They help her with life and knowledge, supplying her with much more than the goods she needs to get by. She is odd to the townspeople though and they begin to suspect her of the murder of Chase. The only one from town who believes in her is a local boy by the name of Tate. He teaches her to read and that cultivates her thirst for knowledge, leading her to a career writing books about the flora and fauna of the marsh.

Eventually Kya is arrested for the crime of murder and put on trial. The final chapters of the book tell the outcome of that trial and her subsequent life changing events. It was a heart-wrenching book but a story that will leave you with definite thoughts, feelings and opinions for days and weeks. ■

## TALKING DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO CATALOG

The library has just produced a brand new all audio version of the 2019 Descriptive Video Catalog. The catalog is a collection of all of the DVD's available today from the library. It is available from NOBLE as downloadable digital talking book so you can listen to it on your Digital Talking Book Player and from our Descriptive Video page on the website as a now playable MP3.

Listen Now – Descriptive Video Catalog and order a movie today.

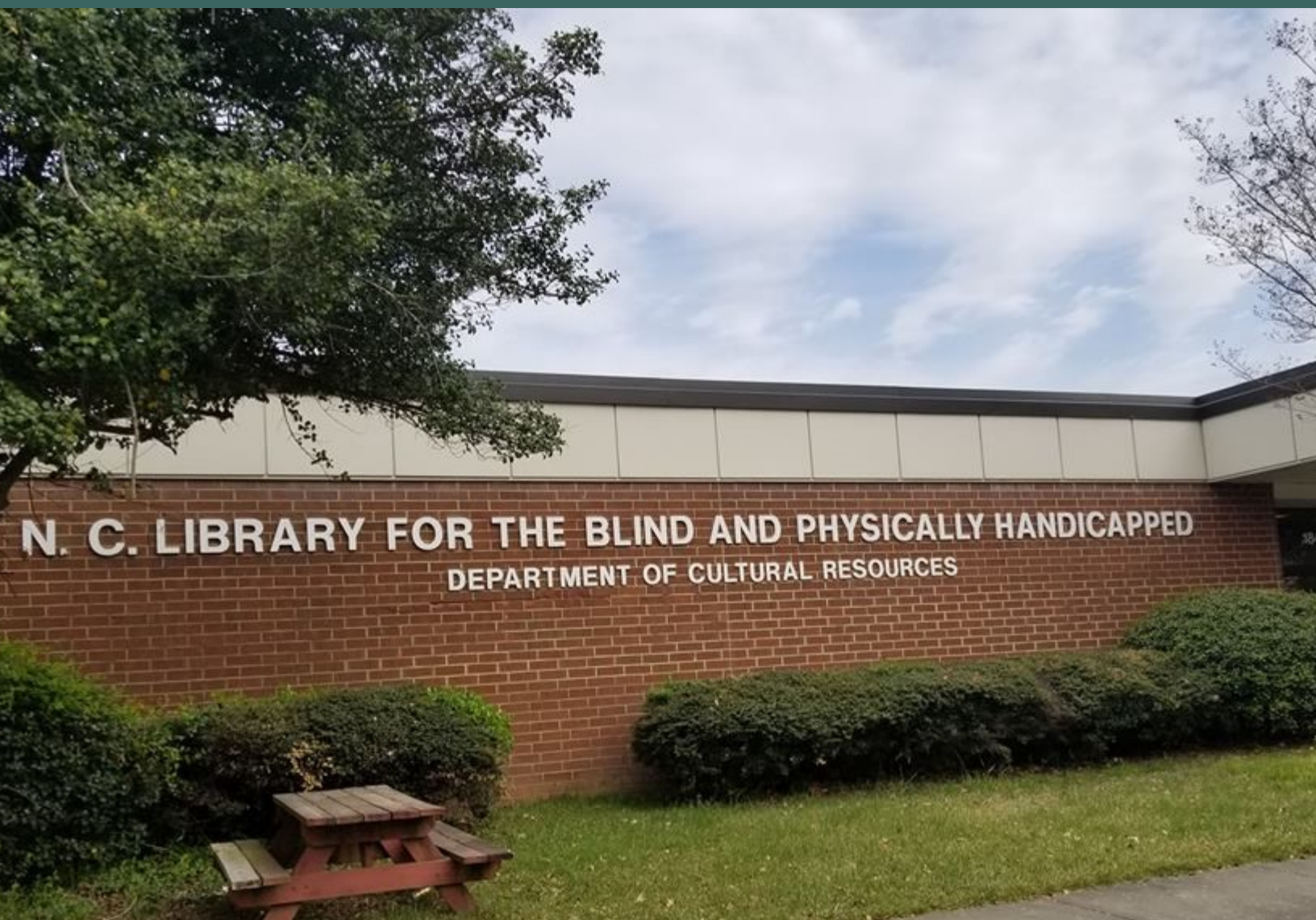
<https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph/services/descriptive-videos>



## DIGITAL TAR HEEL TALK

Tar Heel Talk has a new digital only edition. They are released in the Summer and Winter between the paper editions of Tar Heel Talk. If you would like to receive the digital newsletter, please sign up to be put on our newsletter list by visiting the link below.

[statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph/outreach/tar-heel-talk/digital-newsletter-subscribe](http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph/outreach/tar-heel-talk/digital-newsletter-subscribe)





*TAR HEEL TALK*

ТАВ ХЕЕЛ ТАГК